

New Home Building Boom Continues Unabated

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WEATHER

Mostly clear through Sunday, but patches of early-morning fog. Temperature to be around 70.

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—and Torrance Herald Shopper reaches 100,000 Buyers

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12 PAGES

New Homeowners May Pay Bill For Own Area Parks

Council Studies Recreation Levy

An assessment against new home tracts to provide for additional recreational facilities and which is designed to relieve the burden on residents who have lived in Torrance for a long time, is being considered by the City Council.

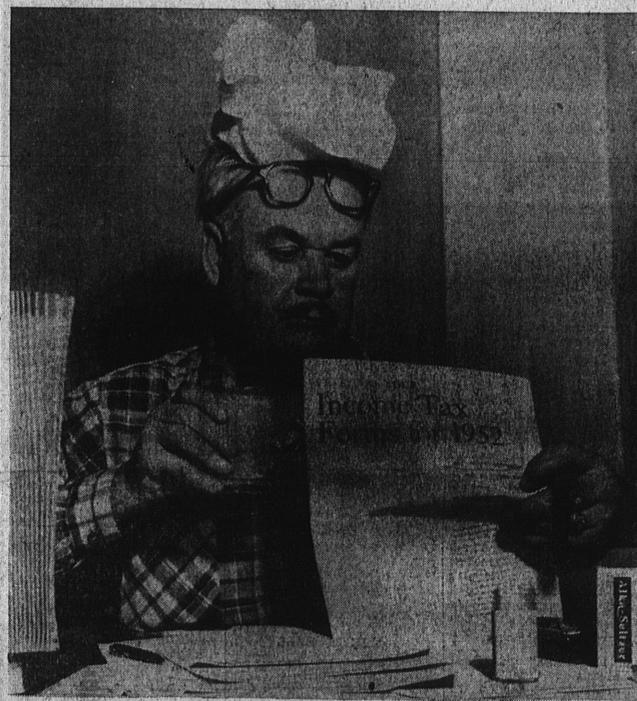
To be discussed by the Council is a plan to levy an assessment of \$100 per gross acre on new tracts of four or more homes. The revenue would be used to purchase neighborhood park sites near the new developments.

The plan is favored by City Manager George W. Stevens. "This method," said Stevens, "would take the financial burden off the shoulders of the long-time residents who have had to pay, through taxation, for new parks in new home subdivisions."

"It is the new people who are moving here who are creating the need for additional recreational facilities. I think it not unfair to ask them to pay for it."

The \$100 gross acre levy would amount to approximately \$25 per average size lot. "I do not believe," commented the city manager, "that a \$25 assessment is likely to stop anybody from buying a \$7000 to \$10,000-home."

The plan was suggested by the Recreation Commission in a letter to the City Council last Tuesday night. The proposal was discussed and referred to an agenda meeting to iron out some of the minor kinks in the plan.



"OH, HAPPY DAY" . . . Nels Bakken, his head cooling beneath an ice bag and his desk laden with headache stoppers, reminds us that tomorrow is the deadline for filing 1952 income tax returns.

Red Cross Fund Drive Nearing Half-Way Mark

With \$5386.75 already received on their \$11,825 goal for the 1953 fund-raising campaign, Red Cross volunteers in the Torrance branch are going all out this week to reach 100 per cent as soon as possible, J. Hugh Sherfey, chairman, said yesterday.

"Every penny is vitally needed," the local chairman said, "and I urge every volunteer worker to complete his or her calls this week. We must make our goal—human lives depend upon the donations we collect—and the quicker we can reach it, the less the campaign costs."

The local branch is part of the Los Angeles Chapter, which because of its proximity to the Korean war front, has an added responsibility of operating the nation's second largest blood service, Sherfey said.

This entails not only the cost of collecting and processing whole blood and its derivatives, but of transporting it to where it is most needed, he revealed. Additional blood also is needed for "operational gamma globulin," the fight to provide more than 1,200,000 units of the polio-fighting serum before the summer epidemics, said the chairman.

Residential colonels Mesdames Opal Herrman and Robert Lampton were among almost 100 outstanding volunteers honored last Thursday evening at the Red Cross "Sky Rally" at International Airport.

Following televised ceremonies on the ground, during which Mrs. Herrman told KTTV announcer Bill Welch of her son who is alive today because of Red Cross blood, the volunteers were taken over the Los Angeles Chapter area in Flying Tiger and United Airlines passenger ships.

Skindivers Turn Up Ancient Weapon, Blush

What skindivers reported to be a medieval cannon on the ocean floor in Malaga Cove was brought to shore Friday and identified by experts in the field.

First discovered by Melvin Fisher and Chuck Valance, Redondo divers, the weapons will be retained by the pair as souvenirs, they said.

The experts identified them as sewer pumps.

It's the Same Old Story; Homes, Homes, Homes, and More Homes!

Construction of 260 Torrance homes worth a total of more than \$2,500,000 got the go-ahead signal this week as the City Council approved three tract maps.

Largest of the three is a 157-dwelling subdivision planned south of Sepulveda Blvd. and west of Hawthorne Blvd. by the Omega Construction Co.

An additional 72 houses will be built by the Barclay Construction Co. near 190th St., west of Yukon Ave., and the remaining 31 homes are planned for a tract near 177th St.

Houses! Houses! Houses! That was the story again this week as new home builders started the construction of 292 more residences — all in North Torrance.

Issued this week by Walter Bradford, chief clerk of the city hall's building department, were building permits totaling \$2,475,300.

William Siemon of Van Nuys received 110 permits for a tract of 77000 homes to be located on Falda Ave., Crenshaw, Glenburn, Elgar, Eriel, Della, Fay, Smith, and Ermanita between 182nd and 185th streets.

The Hedburg Construction Co. (Continued on Page 6)

Makes Bid For Appointment

At the urging of friends, Logan R. Cotton, auditor for the City of Torrance and a former mayor of Hermosa Beach, tossed his hat into the ring last week as a candidate to fill the unexpired term of the late Supervisor Raymond V. Darby.

Others said to be considered for the office, which will be filled by appointment of Gov. Warren are Ken Sampson, Darby's chief deputy, Assemblyman Laughlin Waters, Mayor Burton Chase of Long Beach, Harold Crozier, Wallace Braden, and Mark Gates, a former mayor of Santa Monica.

Cotton is well known in the Torrance-South Bay area, where he has maintained an accounting and auditing business for the past 25 years. For several years he was a member of the taxation committee of the California Chamber of Commerce and is presently a member of the Advisory Board of the Redondo Beach Branch Bank of



LOGAN R. COTTON . . . Darby's Successor?

Coroner's Corner To Get Stop Signs

A fight for better traffic control facilities at East Rd. and Vermont Ave. spearheaded by Jay Venezia, of 20715 Vermont Ave., appeared this week to have some chance at success. In a letter to the office of Ken Sampson, chief deputy to the late Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, County Road Commissioner Sam R. Kennedy recommended that four-way stops be installed at the dangerous intersection.

A 20,000 lumen mercury vapor light has already been installed at the intersection, dubbed "Coroner's Corner" to alleviate some of the hazards which had been presented there at night.

Venezia opened his fight with the aid of the Torrance Herald last December after an auto-ambulance crash claimed the life of Mrs. Betti Barnes Hanner, 28, and injured her two small children.

The intersection has been the scene of several serious accidents during recent years and residents of the Hammerton Tract, which is adjacent to the busy corner, signed a petition following the December accident demanding more adequate traffic control devices. The petition was submitted

Mock Realty Transactions Slated Here

An executive of the Safety Escrow Corp. of Los Angeles will speak on hypothetical real estate transactions from signing up the buyer, depositing the receipt, and going to escrow at the Wednesday evening meeting of the Adult Education class in "Know Your Real Estate."

The free class meets each Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 in the high school cafeteria. Members of the legal staff of Safety Escrow will analyze the proceedings of the hypothetical transactions following their presentation.

Under Council Study

A request for a \$30 a month pay increase for city employees is to be discussed by the City Council and officials of the CIO Government and Civic Employees Organizing Committee in a meeting scheduled for Wednesday. The city employees, through the union, have asked for wage hikes retroactive to Jan. 1 of this year.



LOOKING FOR IDEAS . . . Jesse Lasky, producer of the film, "The Great Caruso," visited a rehearsal of the Torrance Area Youth Band Monday night to gather background for his next picture, "The Big Brass Band." Rafael Mendez, hailed as the "Helfetz of the Trumpet," who will appear in the "Band," will be present as guest artist during the Youth Band's Annual Spring Concert to be held in the Civic Auditorium on May 19. Pictured during Monday's rehearsal is James Van Dyck, director of the local band, Mendez, and Lasky.

Here, Puddy Tat! Here, Puddy Tat! OFFICER HAS LAST LAUGH

Francis Fallon, humane officer, was as much up a tree Thursday as was the cat he was trying to rescue.

For three days residents in the vicinity of Hawthorne Blvd. and Highway 301 had attempted to lure a cat from the upper reaches of a tall tree where the feline had climbed to escape the snapping jaws of a dog. Fallon estimated the cat was at least 60 feet up the tree.

Fallon tried calling the fire department for help. Red tape and an "anti-cat" policy prevented the department from rescuing the stranded cat. The power company said it did not rescue tree cats—only pole cats.

Fallon had an idea. He asked one of the neighborhood children to fetch a blanket.

"I felt a lot like the man everybody laughed at when he sat down to play," said the South Bay Humane Society officer.

"You don't believe that cat is going to jump into the blanket of its own free will, do you?" asked one of the skeptical watchers. Fallon and the child held the blanket outstretched like a fire net. Then, to the amazement of all, including Fallon, the cat poised itself for a second and then leaped into the center of the blanket from nearly 60 feet in the air.



FERT AND PRETTY . . . Terry Lowry, 2415 W. Carson St., an inspector at North American Aviation, looks through a giant shamrock to remind Torrance Irishmen to don their best green bibs and tuckers Tuesday in honor of St. Patrick's Day.